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November 3, 2009

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LEWISTON TEACHER NAMED 2010 IDAHO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

LEWISTON – Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced Tuesday a Lewiston teacher has been honored as the 2010 Idaho Teacher of the Year.

Kelli Smith of Sacajawea Junior High School in Lewiston has served as a math teacher for seven years. As Idaho Teacher of the Year, she will receive nearly \$20,000 in cash and donated gifts and represent Idaho as a nominee for the National Teacher of the Year.

“I am honored to name Kelli Smith as Idaho’s 2010 Teacher of the Year. As a math teacher at Sacajawea Junior High, she works hard each and every day to improve student achievement by showing students the real-life applications of the lessons they learn in the classroom,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said. “In just a few short years in the classroom, she already has proven to be an excellent and innovative leader among teachers in her district and across the state.”

“I really don't think of myself as an exceptional teacher,” Kelli Smith said after accepting the award during a school-wide assembly. “But I do know I have exceptional students, and I do know we have an exceptional staff here at Sacajawea.”

The Idaho Teacher of the Year program began in 1959 and has become one of the most prestigious honors in the state for teachers. The program focuses public attention on excellence in teaching that has a real impact on the students of Idaho. As the 2010 Idaho Teacher of the Year, Smith will receive:

- \$1,000 from the State Department of Education,
- \$16,000 in technology equipment, software and training donated from the SMARTer Kids Foundation, and
- A 32-seat clicker set valued at \$1,100 from Turning Technologies donated by State Department of Education.

Every year, school districts and charter schools across Idaho have the opportunity to nominate one teacher for the Idaho Teacher of the Year. A state selection committee representing teachers, education leaders, parents and legislators from across the state choose the Idaho Teacher of the Year from among the nominations.

To learn more about the Idaho Teacher of the Year program, please visit

http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_of_year/.

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